

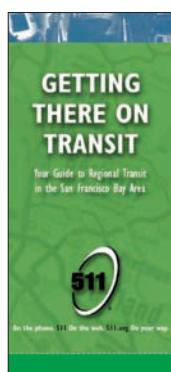
Transactions

MARCH/APRIL 2006

TRANSPORTATION NEWS
FOR THE NINE-COUNTY
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



In Print



Compact Guide Provides Wealth of Transit Information

It's back by popular demand. *Getting There on Transit*, MTC's free pocket guide to riding public transit in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area, has been updated for the first time in four years.

Colorful maps and diagrams provide the "lay of the land" and orient travelers to the region's many transit modes, routes and agencies so that they can more effectively plot their transit trips.

The list of popular destinations—and the transit routes that serve them—is back, along with a directory of the region's paratransit van and taxi services for riders with disabilities and elderly passengers. Other features include a guide to airport ground transportation, a diagram of Bay Area rail systems and their interconnections, and close-up views of transit routes serving downtown Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose and other key cities.

Intended as an adjunct to MTC's 511 traveler information service, the guide sports the 511 logo and trademark green color. Once riders have a general sense of where they're going and how to get there, they can call 511 or visit 511.org to figure out details such as schedules and fares. In fact, the guide includes "tips and tricks" for easily navigating 511's voice-activated phone system.

"Whether you're a newcomer to the region, a tourist or a weekend explorer, you'll find everything you need to get around the nine counties by bus, train, trolley, cable car and ferry in one handy guide," said MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger.

To order your free copy, send an e-mail with your name and address to <library@mtc.ca.gov> or call 510.817.5836.



Motorists can access 511 Driving Times™ free of charge from their home phone or mobile phone, online at 511.org and while en route via changeable message signs.

511 Driving Times™ Doubles Coverage Area

MTC AND CALTRANS TEAM UP WITH PRIVATE SECTOR TO INSTALL NEW TRAFFIC SENSORS

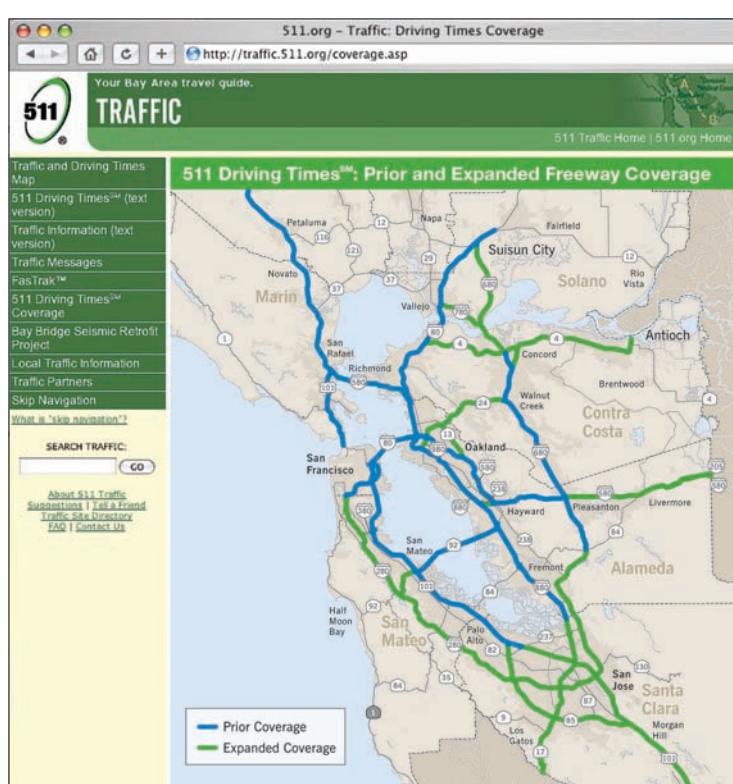
MTC has roughly doubled the size of the coverage area for its popular 511 DrivingTimes™ service, with the addition of data for some 300 miles of freeway around the Bay Area. 511 Driving Times™ delivers free, on-demand information about point-to-point travel times on the Bay Area's freeway network via the phone at 511, or the Web at 511.org. Driving time estimates for select destinations—such as airports—are also displayed on strategically placed electronic freeway message signs around the region.

The 511 Driving Times™ service debuted in March 2004 with coverage of Interstates 80, 680 and 880, and has been expanded several times since to more than 600 miles of coverage. The system taps data from FasTrak™ toll transponders, Caltrans' network of sub-pavement sensors and incident logs from the California Highway Patrol to tell motorists the current travel time between cities or major landmarks in the Bay Area.

In the case of the 511 phone line,

the service provides callers with the travel time for a preferred route plus one alternate. On the Web, up to five route options are offered.

The latest system expansion was made possible when MTC and Caltrans made a concerted effort to fill in gaps in the data collection network along area freeways. The two agencies installed 40 additional FasTrak™ toll-tag readers and upgraded the system of subpavement sensors. And, they joined forces with SpeedInfo Inc.



At 511.org, motorists can check out traffic conditions in real time, view a detailed map of the 511 Driving Times™ coverage area and request travel time estimates.



New solar-powered road sensors keep tabs on freeway flows.

of Cupertino, Calif., to install 285 solar-powered radar traffic sensors along the remaining stretches.

"This is a prime example of the public and private sectors working together to expedite the deployment of intelligent technologies in the Bay Area," said Melanie Crotty, director of Traveler Coordination and Information for MTC.

MTC is now planning the final phase of deployment, which will expand the 511 Driving Times™ network by another 150 miles to include nonfreeway roadways. Targeted roadways include State Route 37 in the North Bay; 19th Avenue and Lombard Street in San Francisco; and several expressways in Santa Clara County.

"We're in the process of figuring out the most efficient and economical way to instrument these other roads," said MTC Planner Benjamin McKeever.

— John Goodwin & Brenda Kabin

Calendar

Unless indicated otherwise, all meetings take place at: Metropolitan Transportation Commission Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter Lawrence D. Dahms Auditorium 101 Eighth Street, Oakland (Across from the Lake Merritt BART station)

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 12, 2006

- 9:30 am Bay Area Toll Authority Oversight Committee*
- 10 am Administration Committee*
- 10:15 am Programming and Allocations Committee*
- 12:30 pm MTC Advisory Council

FRIDAY
APRIL 14, 2006

- 9:30 am Planning Committee*
- 10:30 am Operations Committee*
- 11 am Legislation Committee*

MONDAY
APRIL 17, 2006

- 1:30 pm Partnership Technical Advisory Committee
- THURSDAY**
APRIL 20, 2006
- 9:30 am Regional Pedestrian Committee MetroCenter, Room 171

- 1 pm Regional Bicycle Working Group MetroCenter, Room 171

MONDAY
APRIL 24, 2006

- 2 pm TransLink® Management Group AC Transit, Room To Be Determined 1600 Franklin Street, Oakland

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 26, 2006

- 10 am Bay Area Toll Authority*
- 10:10 am Metropolitan Transportation Commission*

THURSDAY
MAY 4, 2006

- 10:30 am Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee

MONDAY
MAY 8, 2006

- 2 pm TransLink® Operating Group

TUESDAY
MAY 9, 2006

- 3:30 pm Minority Citizens Advisory Committee

*Webcast on <www.mtc.ca.gov>.

Note: Dates, times and locations of MTC meetings may change. Please confirm by calling 510.817.5757. Agendas, updated meeting schedules and meeting packets are posted on MTC's Web site: <www.mtc.ca.gov>.

Announcements

Bike to Work Day

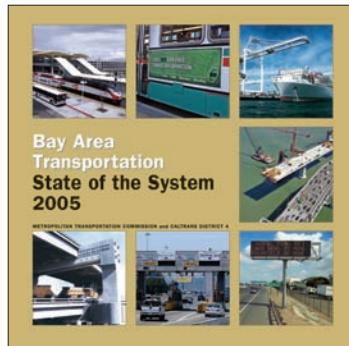
THURSDAY
MAY 18, 2006

It's not too early to begin gearing up for Bike to Work Day. This is a chance to discover the joys and benefits of bicycling. We provide support in the form of bicycle buddies, free snacks along your route at energizer stations, free bike parking and more. By registering and participating, you'll also be eligible for a range of prizes. Better yet, invite a group of your co-workers to join you in the Team Bike Challenge. Register and find out about local events at 511.org (click on "Bicycling").

Bike Commuter of the Year

Do you know someone in your county who is committed to making every day a "Bike to Work Day"? We are seeking nominations for the 2006 Bike Commuter of the Year Awards. One person from each of the nine Bay Area counties will receive an award. Visit the 511.org bicycle page to submit a nomination; the deadline is April 17, 2006.

Facts & Figures State of the System 2005: Bay Area Travel Growing Safer



In Print

Maps and Stats Galore

The safety statistics in the adjacent story can be found in *Bay Area Transportation: State of the System 2005*, a digest of data on the performance of the region's transportation network produced annually by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Caltrans District 4.

In addition to safety statistics and 2004 freeway congestion data (which was released in September 2005), *Bay Area Transportation: State of the System 2005* features data about pavement conditions, transit ridership and reliability, air travel and goods movement, and much more.

The report can be viewed online at <www.mtc.ca.gov/planning>; to order a hard copy, contact <library@mtc.ca.gov> or call 510.817.5836.

Fatal/Injury Crashes Fall For Fourth Straight Year

The Bay Area is steadily becoming a safer place for motorists and pedestrians alike, according to the just-released *State of the System 2005* report. Across the nine-county region, the number of reported auto and truck collisions that resulted in death or injury dropped for the fourth straight year in 2004 — as did the number of motor vehicle collisions involving pedestrians.

The number of injury/fatal vehicle collisions fell by 5 percent in 2004, to just under 34,000, while the number of collisions involving pedestrians dipped by 3 percent to fewer than 2,800. And while the number of auto accidents involving bicyclists rose 5 percent last year to nearly 2,400, this figure is still 16 percent below the 2000 tally.

Albert Yee, director of Highway and Arterial Operations for MTC, said the steady reduction in motor-

ist deaths and injuries is part of a nationwide trend. "It's partially due to increased use of safety belts," he said. "At the same time, there are fewer alcohol-related accidents."

The report reveals some other interesting facts. While freeway driving accounts for approximately 60 percent of all miles driven in the Bay Area, only about 25 percent of all collisions occur on freeways. And, 65 percent of collisions occurring in 2004 involved property damage only.

— Joe Curley

Injury and Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions on Bay Area Roadways, 2000–2004

	Collisions						Percent Change	
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003–04	2000–2004	
Injury Collisions	36,609	38,322	37,167	35,089	33,524	-4%	-15%	
Fatal Collisions	444	449	451	468	426	-9%	-4%	
Total Injury and Fatal Collisions	40,053	38,771	37,618	35,557	33,950	-5%	-15%	

Injury and Fatal Motor Vehicle Collisions Involving Pedestrians or Bicyclists, 2000–2004 (Bay Area)

	Collisions						Percent Change	
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2003–04	2000–2004	
Collisions Involving Pedestrians								
Injury Collisions	3,173	3,080	2,910	2,740	2,648	-3%	-17%	
Fatal Collisions	134	103	111	104	100	-4%	-25%	
Subtotal	3,307	3,183	3,021	2,844	2,748	-3%	-17%	
Collisions Involving Bicyclists								
Injury Collisions	2,810	2,566	2,321	2,254	2,357	+5%	-16%	
Fatal Collisions	17	20	19	14	20	+43%	+18%	
Subtotal	2,827	2,586	2,340	2,268	2,377	+5%	-16%	
Total Involving Bicyclists or Pedestrians	6,134	5,769	5,361	5,112	5,125	<1%	-16%	



Nancy Pelosi



Steve Heminger

able, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users), which was passed in mid-2005. The prestigious panel will examine the future needs of the nation's surface transportation system once SAFETEA expires in 2009. Per the act, one of the panel's charges will be to look at "long-term alternatives to replace or supplement

the fuel tax as the principal revenue source to support the Highway Trust Fund, including new or alternative sources of revenue."

Minority Panel Recruits New Members

MTC is now recruiting for up to 11 slots on its Minority Citizens Advisory Committee. "We're looking for people who are active in their local communities and have a strong interest in transportation issues," said Catalina Alvarado, MTC's staff liaison to the committee. Members are selected by the MTC commissioners and receive a \$50 stipend per meeting (gen-

erally the second Tuesday of the month at 3:30 p.m. at MTC's offices) as well as travel expenses.

Applications are due by Friday, April 21, 2006. For a list of openings and an application form, go to <www.mtc.ca.gov/get_involved/advisory>.

Comment on Draft Transit Connectivity Plan

As part of its continuing effort to stitch together the Bay Area's nearly two dozen transit systems into a seamless, passenger-friendly network, MTC is inviting residents throughout the nine-county region to weigh in on its newly released *Draft Summary Report for the*

Commission Actions

January/February 2006

- From the 511 Traveler Information System to the roving tow trucks of the Freeway Service Patrol, operational projects are playing a growing role in keeping the Bay Area moving. In order to better support this new focus, MTC officially split the duties of the Planning and Operations Committee into two new committees, the Planning Committee and the Operations Committee. Meanwhile, the functions of the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways Operations Committee have been absorbed into the new Operations Committee.

MTC Resolution 1058-Revised

- Acting as the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA), adopted a new toll schedule for the state-owned toll bridges in the Bay Area, effective January 1, 2007. The toll for automobiles will rise to \$4 (a \$1 increase), with users of FasTrak™ enjoying a \$1 discount per trip during the first month of the new fee schedule. The toll hike is part of the Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program funding package hammered out by BATA, Caltrans and state legislators. **BATA Resolution 64**
- Approved development of a Regional Emergency Management Program and set aside more than \$2 million for this effort over two fiscal years. The program will focus on two key areas: strengthening interagency emergency communications and preparing a detailed regional emergency operations plan for transportation agencies.

In Brief

MTC Chief to Serve On National Panel

Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), Democratic leader of the House of Representatives, has appointed MTC Executive Director Steve Heminger to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission.

The 12-member panel, which will be chaired by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, was created by Congress as part of SAFETEA (Safe, Account-

Transit Connectivity Study. The document identifies 21 key regional transit hubs deserving special attention, and calls for improving signage to help riders find their connections; displaying real-time bus and train arrival information; better coordinating fares and schedules; and beefing up "last-mile" services — shuttles, car-sharing alternatives and the like to take transit riders to the doorsteps of their destinations.

Comments are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 14, 2006. Study materials and directions for commenting can be found on MTC's Web site: <www.mtc.ca.gov/get_involved/connectivity.htm>.

M E T R O P O L I T A N T R A N S P O R T A T I O N C O M M I S S I O N W W W . M T C . C A . G O V

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MARCH/APRIL 2006

Metropolitan Transportation Commission

Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, California 94607

510.817.5700 TEL.
510.817.5769 TDD/TTY
510.817.5848 FAX
info@mtc.ca.gov E-MAIL
www.mtc.ca.gov WEB

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Ann Flermer
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

Andrew Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Bay Area Toll Authority

Therese W. McMillan
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Brenda Kahn
Editor

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